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## **A Cooperative Effort**

*The Kahnawake Occupational Safety and Health Office along with Mohawk Self Insurance are working closely to reduce workplace injuries. Workplace injuries cost employers, employees, insurance providers and families thousands of dollars each year. By providing the tools through promoting safety, providing training and or training materials and continued safety awareness, together we can reduce workplace injuries.*



P.O. Box 720  
Kahnawake Mohawk Territory  
via Quebec, Canada J0L 1B0  
Phone: (450) 638-0500 ext. 249  
Fax: (450) 632-0976  
E-mail: [chelsea.phillips@mck.ca](mailto:chelsea.phillips@mck.ca)

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# **“Safety” Is No Accident**



**Mohawk Council of Kahnawake  
Community Protection Unit  
Kahnawake Occupational Safety and Health**

P.O. Box 720  
Kahnawake Mohawk Territory  
via Quebec, Canada J0L 1B0  
Phone: (450) 632-0635  
Fax: (450) 635-1834  
E-mail: [louis.stacey@mck.ca](mailto:louis.stacey@mck.ca)

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**Mohawk Council of Kahnawake  
Community Protection Unit  
Kahnawake Occupational Safety and Health**

## **Eye and Face Protection**



## **Let's All Stay Focused**

# Eye and Face Protection



## The Human Eye

Our window through which we view the world. The eyes are undoubtedly the most sensitive and delicate organs we possess, and are responsible for four fifths of all the information our brain receives – which is probably why we rely on our eyesight more than any other sense. Yet we tend to neglect to protect them quite often. Safety glasses are an important part of your everyday life if your job involves being exposed to dust, flying objects or particles. Other tasks which require eye and face protection are welding, burning and working with hazardous liquids which may splash on your face or in your eyes. Today safety glasses come in a variety of designer fashions and are available with prescription lenses.

## Safety Glasses

Unlike regular glasses, safety glasses are resistant to impact but often look alike. Frames stamped with the imprint “Z87” (U.S) or “Z94” (Canada) meet stringent standards for strength and heat resistance.

Safety glasses are required to withstand the impact of a quarter inch steel ball traveling at a speed of 150 feet per second by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), which sets standards for safety glasses.

Because standard safety glasses protect from the front only, you can also get safety glasses with side shields to provide limited protection from the sides.

To protect your eyes from flying objects from the top or bottom, goggles which cup the eyes offer a greater protection.

Some jobs require the use of both safety glasses and a face shield. Some examples are grinding, welding, sandblasting and laboratory work.

## Use and Care

Safety glasses are designed to protect you from injury however they will not withstand repeated impact or abuse.

Inspect your safety glasses regularly and replace them if they show signs of wear, scratches, cracks, bent or are uncomfortable to wear.

Scratches on the lenses can reduce your ability to see clearly, weaken the structure of the lens but most importantly can weaken the impact resistance.

Always keep your safety glasses clean and in good repair as recommended by the manufacturer’s instructions.

Always store your safety glasses in a clean dry place.

## Face Shields

Face shields protect you from flying particles, splashes and other hazards. Welding shields are a specialized face shield which protects you from sparks, splashes of metal and intense light which could damage your eyesight. Although face shields are hard to beat for all purpose face protection, it is a good practice to wear safety goggles along with your face shield. Most face shields are made of high strength flexible plastic. Face shields come in a variety of designs and are also available to attach directly to a hardhat.

## Use and Care

Always choose a face shield that fits snugly but is not uncomfortable to wear. The shield should cover your face from forehead to the base of your neck without obstructing your vision. Scratched or cracked faceshields must be replaced. Store your faceshield in an area to prevent scratching or other damage.

